

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 95-653-E - ORDER NO. 95-836 ✓
APRIL 6, 1995

IN RE: Motion of Carolina Power & Light) ORDER GRANTING
Company for a Waiver of Certain Payment) MOTION FOR
Provisions of its Non-Residential Rate) WAIVER AND
Schedules in Order to Provide) APPROVING
Consolidated Billing.) CONSOLIDATED
) BILLING

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Motion of Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L or the Company) for a waiver of certain payment provisions of CP&L's non-residential rate schedules.

By its Motion, CP&L states that beginning April 11, 1995, CP&L wishes to implement a new billing option for its non-residential customers that will be known as "Consolidated Billing." This new program will provide non-residential customers the ability to consolidate some or all of their individual account bills into a single bill statement. The accounts may be at different geographic locations on CP&L's system and may have different meter reading dates. According to the Motion, CP&L intends to conduct a six (6) month trial of the program, during which time, a maximum of twenty-five (25) non-residential customers will be allowed to participate. During the trial period, CP&L will assess the cost effectiveness of the program to both CP&L and its customers as well as evaluate customer satisfaction with the program. If the trial period is successful, CP&L will then make the Consolidated Billing

Program available to all CP&L non-residential customers. CP&L notes in its Motion that consolidated billing will not be available to those customers whose bills require special handling, such as those customers participating in CP&L's Dispatched Power Rider, Curtailable Load Rider, Back-up and Supplementary Service Rider, or Standby Service Rider.

Under the consolidated billing program, CP&L will offer eligible customers three billing options. These billing options are: 1) one bill per month; 2) two bills per month; or 3) four bills per month. Under each option, CP&L will combine certain of the customers' individual account bills into a single bill allowing the customer to pay for these multiple accounts in a single payment. In order to aggregate individual account bills into a single bill when the individual accounts have different meter reading dates, it will be necessary for CP&L to delay mailing the consolidated bill many days beyond the dates that some of the individual account bills would ordinarily have been mailed. CP&L states that it will schedule the mailing of the Consolidated Bill and the Past Due After Date to achieve revenue neutrality for both the Company and the customer, so that neither party is gaining greater use of the other's funds or services through the implementation of the Consolidated Billing Program.

The payment provisions of CP&L's non-residential rate schedules state that bills are due when rendered and are payable within fifteen (15) days from the date of the bill. Since CP&L will be postponing the mailing of many individual account bills, sometimes for as long as thirty (30) days, immediately after the

meter is read on the last account to be included in the consolidated bill, CP&L must issue the bill and receive prompt payment in order to achieve revenue neutrality. This will require that the customer pay the consolidated bill in less than the fifteen (15) days provided by the Company's rate schedules. Therefore, in order to achieve a balance between the past due date and a reasonable revenue neutral position, it is necessary for the Commission to waive this fifteen (15) day requirement. CP&L is not requesting a waiver of the Commission's Rule 103-339(3) which prohibits the assessment of a late payment charge if an account is paid within twenty-five (25) days from the billing date, nor is CP&L requesting a waiver of Rule 103-352 which sets forth the procedure for termination of service.

CP&L states that prior to granting a customer's request for Consolidated Billing, CP&L will fully describe the terms of the consolidation to the customer. CP&L will advise the customer of the applicable billing dates, past-due dates, and required method of payment. A confirmation letter will be sent to each customer.

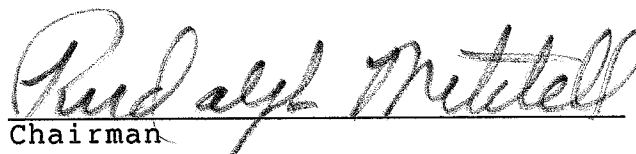
During the initial six (6) month trial period, there will be no charge to the customer to participate in the consolidated billing program. Following the trial period, CP&L will evaluate the cost of the program and, if a charge appears to be appropriate, petition the Commission for authority to assess the appropriate charge.

Upon consideration of CP&L's Motion, the Commission believes and so finds that the waiver requested by CP&L of certain payment provisions of its non-residential rate schedules should be granted.

It is apparent to the Commission that unless CP&L is granted a waiver of payment provisions of its non-residential rate schedules as requested, it will not be possible for CP&L to offer the Consolidated Billing Program. Participation by the customer in CP&L's Consolidated Billing Program is voluntary. Therefore, any customer participating in the Consolidated Billing Program will be advised of the terms of the program and will voluntarily consent to the terms of the program. Since the customers are voluntarily agreeing to the arrangements of the program, the Commission finds that the waiver of the fifteen (15) day payment provision requirement is appropriate and in the public interest under the circumstances as set forth above.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)